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Students compete in 'consumer' nationals

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*Barrington team
fails to place*

A team of five seniors from Barrington High School represented Rhode Island at the national "LifeSmarts: The ultimate consumer challenge" competition in Orlando, Fla. last week. The "Eagle Einsteins" failed to place among the top teams.

The Barrington High School team claimed the 2007 Rhode Island LifeSmarts Championship after placing third in 2005 (as sophomores), and second in 2006 (as juniors). At the national competition, however, they were defeated twice, once in the opening round by the New Hampshire squad and again in a consolation round match against Tennessee. The eventual winner of the tournament was a team from New Mexico.

The "Eagle Einsteins" include team members Michael Ding (captain), Noel Barlow, Katie Enzer, Ainsley Judge, Nikolas Raufi

and Coach Karen Proule, a business teacher at the school.

LifeSmarts: The ultimate consumer challenge, is a fast-paced quiz show competition for teams of 4 to 5 high school students who demonstrate consumer knowledge in the areas of personal finance, technology, health and safety, environment, and consumer rights and responsibilities. The teams first compete online and top-scoring teams are invited to the state competition.

The national program is offered by the National Consumers League (NCL) and is coordinated in Rhode Island by the RI Jump\$tart Coalition.

General Treasurer Frank T. Caprio, who has participated as a question master in every Rhode Island LifeSmarts competition since 2005, saluted the team's accomplishment.

"It has been my privilege to see the Eagle Einstein's team increase their LifeSmarts standing for the past three years," he

said.

Continuing the Barrington High School tradition of LifeSmarts state competition achievement, a team of freshmen called "Jia Rules" placed third at the 2007 competition. The 2007 RI State LifeSmarts competition, a.k.a "March Smartness," saw intense competition down to the last question, with the "Junior Cougars" of North Providence claiming 1st runner-up after the "Eagle Einsteins."

Along with the top three teams, eight other teams competed at states, representing Burrillville, Coventry, East Greenwich, Lincoln, The Lincoln School, Providence Academy of International Studies, and Warwick Veteran's Memorial High Schools.

Over a dozen academic, business, government and civic leaders, including General Treasurer Caprio, volunteered as officials at the March Smartness competition at Rhode Island College.



Members of the Barrington High School LifeSmarts team are shown in a recent competition. Team members in the photo include (from left to right) Michael Ding, Nikolas Raufi, Katie Enzer and Noel Barlow.